

AUSTRIAN REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE

ÖSTERREICHISCHE VERTRETUNGSKÖRPERSCHAFT

Chairman : Franz Novy (*Trade Unions*)
Vice-Chairmen : Prof. F. Hertz (*Democrats*)
Dr. F. Schneider (*Catholics*)
Hon. Secretary : Dr. Oscar Pollak (*Socialists*)

Temporary Address : c/o FRANZ NOVY,
31, Broadhurst Gardens, London, N.W.6
Tel. : MAIda Vale 9027

AIMS

Welcoming the declaration of the Governments of Great Britain, the Soviet Union, and the United States that Austria, the first victim of Nazi aggression, shall be liberated from German domination and that they wish to see re-established a free and independent Austria;

and determined to give fullest support to the Austrian people's struggle for freedom and independence

the Delegation Abroad of the Austrian Trade Unions, the London Bureau of the Austrian Socialists, the Austrian Democratic Union and representatives of the Austrian Catholics (Verband Oesterreichischer Christlichsozialer in Grossbritannien) have set up the

AUSTRIAN REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE

which has as its aims:—

- (1) to mobilise all forces of the Austrian people for its fight for liberation from Fascism and German domination;
for the sabotage of the German war effort;
for co-operation with the United Nations in the achievement of victory over Hitler-Germany and her associates;
- (2) to create an independent, truly democratic Austrian Republic in which all the roots of Fascism shall be eradicated;
- (3) to prepare the international co-operation of Austria with those neighbouring States which will be faced with similar problems in order to organise that political and economic security which is the only basis for lasting peace;
- (4) to prepare the participation of Austria in the general international organisation for the maintenance of peace and security, announced by the Moscow Conference, which shall be based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all peace-loving nations.

The functions of the Representative Committee will come to an end when the Austrian people are liberated and able freely to decide on the form of Government and the structure of their State.

CONSTITUTION

The Austrian Representative Committee was formally constituted in London, on November 9th, 1943. It consists of the following representatives of each of the above-named groups:

Trade Unions: Franz Novy (*Chairman*), Richard Strasser (Permanent deputy: Johann Svitanics);

Socialists: Dr. Oscar Pollak (*Hon. Secretary*), Karl Czernetz);

Catholics:

Verband Oesterreichischer Christlichsozialer: Dr. H. Karl, Dr. G. Ludwig;

Dr. Franz Schneider (*Vice-Chairman*);

Democrats: Professor Friedrich Hertz (*Vice-Chairman*), (Permanent deputy: Dr. Müller-Sturmheim).

Two seats on the Committee have been reserved for the Communists.

At a later stage the Committee will invite representatives of the Austrian democratic groups resident in other countries to join.

POLITICAL ACTION

The Committee thus includes all the Austrian democratic political groups in Great Britain, excluding groups of non-democratic or Fascist tendencies. The Communists have so far refused to join the Austrian Representative Committee but are free to do so whenever they so desire. Monarchists are not represented on the Committee.

It combines all political groups representing existing or potential anti-Hitler forces in Austria, irrespective of the number of refugees belonging to any particular group abroad.

This clearly distinguishes the Austrian Representative Committee from the various refugee organisations some of which are doing welfare work for the refugees. One of these organisations of refugees is the Free Austrian Movement which is under Communist direction and cannot claim to be politically representative.

The formation of the Austrian Representative Committee constitutes a concerted political act of all democratic groups. Based on the decisions of the Moscow Conference which were welcomed by all Austrian groups, it marks the beginning of serious political action in accordance with the declaration of principles.

The Austrian Representative Committee calls upon all Austrians in Britain and in other countries who adhere to the principles it stands for, to support its efforts.

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Vorsitzender: Franz Novy (*Freie Gewerkschaften*)
Vorsitzender: Prof. F. Hertz (*Demokraten*)
Dr. F. Schneider (*Katholiken*)
Sekretär: Dr. Oscar Pollak (*Sozialisten*)

Provisorische Adresse: FRANZ NOVY
31, Broadhurst Gardens, London, N.W.6
Tel: MALda Vale 9027

ZIELE

Gestützt auf die Erklärung der Regierungen Englands, der Sowjet-Union und der Vereinigten Staaten, dass Österreich, das erste Opfer des Nazi-Angriffs, von der deutschen Herrschaft befreit werden soll und dass sie die Wiederherstellung eines freien und unabhängigen Österreich wünschen;

entschlossen, den Kampf des österreichischen Volkes für Freiheit und Unabhängigkeit auf jede mögliche Weise zu unterstützen;

haben die Auslandsvertretung der Freien Gewerkschaften Österreichs, das Londoner Bureau der Österreichischen Sozialisten, die Österreichische Demokratische Union und Vertreter österreichischer Katholiken (des Verbandes Österreichischer Christlichsozialer in Grossbritannien) gemeinsam die

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gebildet, die sich zur Aufgabe setzt:

1. Die Mobilisierung aller Kräfte des österreichischen Volkes für den Kampf um seine Befreiung vom Faschismus und von der deutschen Herrschaft;
für die Sabotage der deutschen Kriegsmaschine;
für die Unterstützung der Vereinten Nationen bei der Herbeiführung des Sieges über Hitler-Deutschland und seine Verbündeten;
2. Die Schaffung einer unabhängigen, wahrhaft demokratischen Österreichischen Republik, in der alle Wurzeln des Faschismus ausgerottet sind;
3. Die Vorbereitung der internationalen Zusammenarbeit Österreichs mit denjenigen Nachbarstaaten, die sich ähnlichen Problemen gegenübersehen, zum Zweck der Organisierung der politischen und wirtschaftlichen Sicherheit, welche die einzig mögliche Grundlage eines dauerhaften Friedens ist;
4. Die Vorbereitung der Mitwirkung Österreichs an der allgemeinen internationalen Organisation zur Aufrechterhaltung des Friedens und der Sicherheit, gemäss der Moskauer Erklärung, die auf das Prinzip der souveränen Gleichheit aller friedliebenden Völker gegründet sein soll.

Die Funktionen der Vertretungskörperschaft erlöschen, sobald das österreichische Volk befreit und in der Lage ist, frei über die Form der Regierung und über die Gestaltung des Staates zu entscheiden.

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